



---

For Immediate Release: Thursday, January 20, 2005

Contact: Rose Lynch (608) 266-6753

Web Audio: [http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2005/multimedia/ui\\_050120.mp3](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2005/multimedia/ui_050120.mp3)

## **DECEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED**

### ***2004 average monthly unemployment rate lowest since 2001***

#### **UNADJUSTED DATA**

**Madison** – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that Wisconsin's unadjusted unemployment rate for December was estimated at 4.2 percent, making 2004 the first year with an average monthly rate below 5.0 percent since 2001.

The December rate matched the 4.2 percent rate in November. The December 2003 rate was 4.9 percent. The average monthly unemployment rate for all of 2004 is 4.9 percent, compared with 5.6 percent in 2003 and 5.5 percent in 2002. Wisconsin's unadjusted rate of 4.2 percent for December 2004 is nearly a full percentage point below the national unadjusted rate of 5.1 percent.

"Setting the lowest average monthly unemployment rate in three years is yet another great sign that Wisconsin is on the move, as Governor Doyle said in his state of the state address last week," Secretary Gassman said of the average rate for 2004. "Overall, the December figures show continued improvement, an impressive gain of 63,200 jobs from December of 2003."

The job total for December was 2,857,100 compared with 2,872,800 in November. In December 2003, the total was 2,793,900. The increase of 63,200 jobs from December 2003 to last month was the second best in job growth for 2004. November was the best month with an increase of 67,600 jobs from November 2003.

Over the year, Wisconsin's employment numbers averaged 2,824,600 jobs a month, compared with the 2003 monthly average of 2,778,900. The 2004 monthly average was 44,700 more than the figure for 2003. The closely watched manufacturing sector finished the year up 6,300 jobs from its 2003 monthly average. Other sectors showing gains were construction, 2,800 more jobs; trade, transportation and utilities, 11,500; financial activities, 2,000; administrative and support services, 13,200; education and health services, 10,300; leisure and hospitality, 6,000. Three sectors showed a decrease: government, down 4,900 jobs; other services, down 2,300, and information services, down 1,200 jobs.

#### **SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA**

Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 4.6 percent in December from 4.9 percent in November. That was the second month in 2004 when the seasonally adjusted rate dropped to 4.6 percent. The April seasonally adjusted rate was also estimated at 4.6 percent. In December 2003, the rate was 5.4 percent. The nation's seasonally adjusted rate for December was 5.4 percent, unchanged from November. The national seasonally adjusted rate for December 2003 was 5.7 percent.

December's seasonally adjusted nonfarm job total was down slightly from the very strong November figure, 2,838,900 compared to 2,845,300, but was still up 63,600 jobs from last year's December figure.

December employment and unemployment figures for individual counties will be available January 26. This release also is available at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/>

-end-

**WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY**  
In Thousands

ITEM	PRELIM. DEC 04	FINAL NOV 04	YEAR AGO DEC 03	NET CHANGE FROM	
				MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES				
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3092.2	3112.9	3065.1	-20.7	27.1
UNEMPLOYMENT	128.3	130.3	149.8	-2.0	-21.5
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.2	4.2	4.9	0.0	-0.7
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2963.8	2982.6	2915.3	-18.8	48.5
PLACE OF WORK DATA					
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2857.1	2872.8	2793.9	-15.7	63.2
TOTAL PRIVATE	2443.5	2453.8	2376	-10.3	67.5
GOODS PRODUCING	644.7	654	626.9	-9.3	17.8
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3.8	4.2	3.7	-0.4	0.1
CONSTRUCTION	124.1	130	121.8	-5.9	2.3
MANUFACTURING	516.8	519.8	501.4	-3.0	15.4
Durable Goods	320.4	320.9	308.2	-0.5	12.2
Nondurable Goods	196.4	198.9	193.2	-2.5	3.2
SERVICE PRODUCING	2212.4	2218.8	2167	-6.4	45.4
TRADE	461.5	460.7	446.6	0.8	14.9
Wholesale Trade	119.3	119.5	113.1	-0.2	6.2
Retail Trade	342.2	341.2	333.5	1.0	8.7
TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES	109.9	110.2	108.2	-0.3	1.7
Utilities	12.1	12.2	11.7	-0.1	0.4
Information	48.7	48.4	49.5	0.3	-0.8
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	163.7	162.7	160.1	1.0	3.6
Finance and Insurance	133.5	133	131.1	0.5	2.4
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	30.2	29.7	29	0.5	1.2
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	262.4	265.9	244.3	-3.5	18.1
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	90.3	89.7	87.7	0.6	2.6
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	37.3	37.3	36.9	0.0	0.4
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	134.8	138.9	119.7	-4.1	15.1
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	384.8	383.3	373.9	1.5	10.9
Educational Services	50.9	51.5	49.6	-0.6	1.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	333.9	331.8	324.3	2.1	9.6
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	240.6	240.9	237	-0.3	3.6
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	33.6	32	33.4	1.6	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	207	208.9	203.6	-1.9	3.4
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin	127.2	127.7	129.5	-0.5	-2.3
GOVERNMENT	413.6	419	417.9	-5.4	-4.3
Federal Government	29.4	29.4	30.2	0.0	-0.8
State Government	99.7	102.4	100.7	-2.7	-1.0
Local Government	284.5	287.2	287	-2.7	-2.5
PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	-0.5
(1) Includes L-M Disputes					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3113.6	3128.4	3085.4	-14.8	28.2
UNEMPLOYMENT	143.8	151.8	167.2	-8.0	-23.4
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.6	4.9	5.4	-0.3	-0.8
EMPLOYMENT	2969.8	2976.7	2918.2	-6.9	51.6
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2838.9	2845.3	2775.3	-6.4	63.6

\*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section, Bureau of Workforce Information